Newman
BY JOSH ULRICH

SO... THERE IS SOMETHING I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT...
OH GOD, ARE YOU BREAKING UP WITH ME?

WHAT!? NO!
OH... OK, GOOD, GO ON.
IT'S MY MOM.
YOUR MOM WANTS YOU TO BREAK UP WITH ME?

NO--!
WELL...

NO, LISTEN!

MY MOM WANTS ME TO MOVE BACK HOME AND TAKE ON MORE RESPONSIBILITY IN THE KINGDOM.
AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO TELL HER.

I WAS WONDERING WHAT YOU THINK I SHOULD DO
WELL. DO YOU WANT TO MOVE BACK HOME?

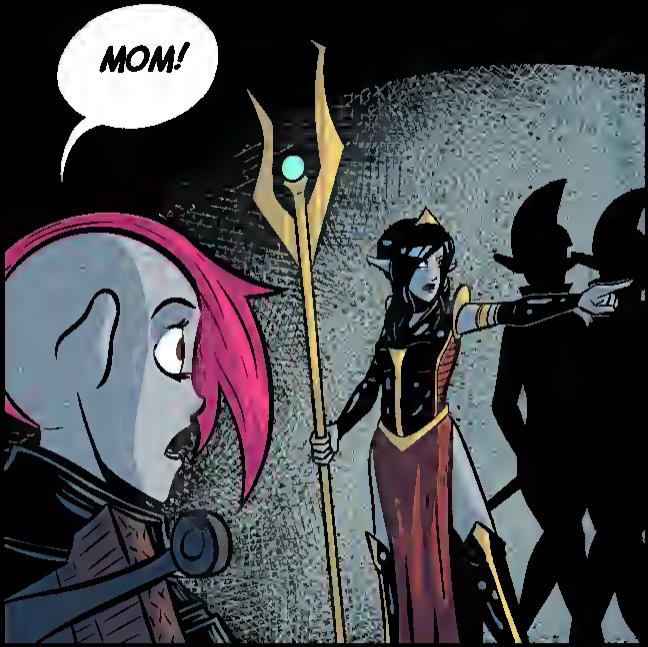
NO... MAYBE? I DON'T KNOW. I LIKE MY JOB, AND I LIKE WHERE I LIVE. BUT I FEEL LIKE I HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO THE FAMILY BUSINESS, YOU KNOW?
YOU SHOULDN'T DO SOMETHING JUST BECAUSE YOU FEEL OBLIGATED. THAT'S NOT FAIR TO YOU, OR THE PEOPLE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE HELPING.

ON THE OTHER HAND, SOMETIMES WE NEED A LITTLE PRESSURE TO PUSH US IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.
BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY, WHATEVER YOU DECIDE TO DO NEEDS TO BE WHAT YOUR HEART REALLY WANTS.
AND NO MATTER WHAT YOU DECIDE, I'LL SUPPORT YOU ON HUNDRED PERCENT.

THANKS.

OH NO...

WE'RE TOO LATE.


MOM!

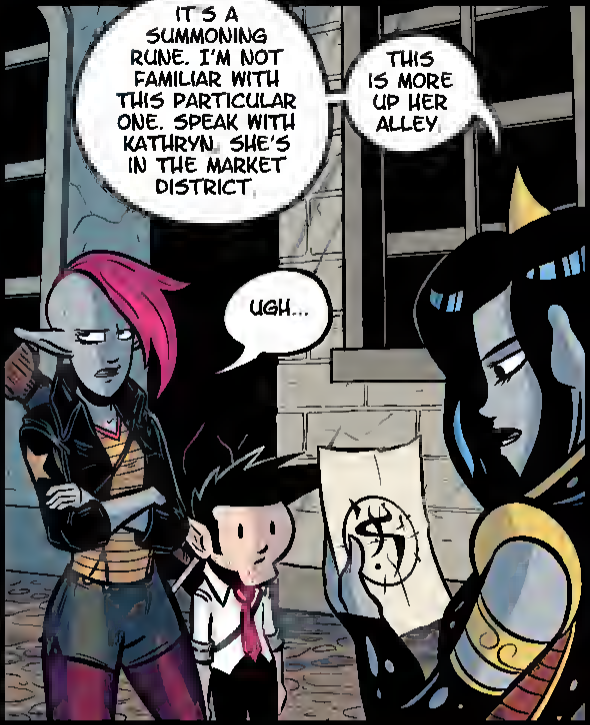
IS EVERYONE OKAY!? WE GOT HERE AS FAST AS WE COULD TO TRY AND WARN YOU!
WE CAUGHT THE OUTBREAK QUICKLY, BUT THERE HAVE STILL BEEN CASUALTIES
IT IS SHAMEFUL FOR THE DROW TO BE CAUGHT OFF GUARD LIKE THIS

WE KNOW WHO'S LEADING THE ATTACKS, MOM! UNCLE TORRIAN IS BEHIND THE WHOLE THING!
YOU'RE SURE OF THIS?

POSITIVE. I SPOKE TO HIM FACE TO FACE.
CLEARLY BANISHMENT WAS MUCH TOO KIND FOR DEAR BROTHER. I WILL NOT MAKE THAT MISTAKE TWICE

YOU'RE MAJESTY, IF I MAY—
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?
...

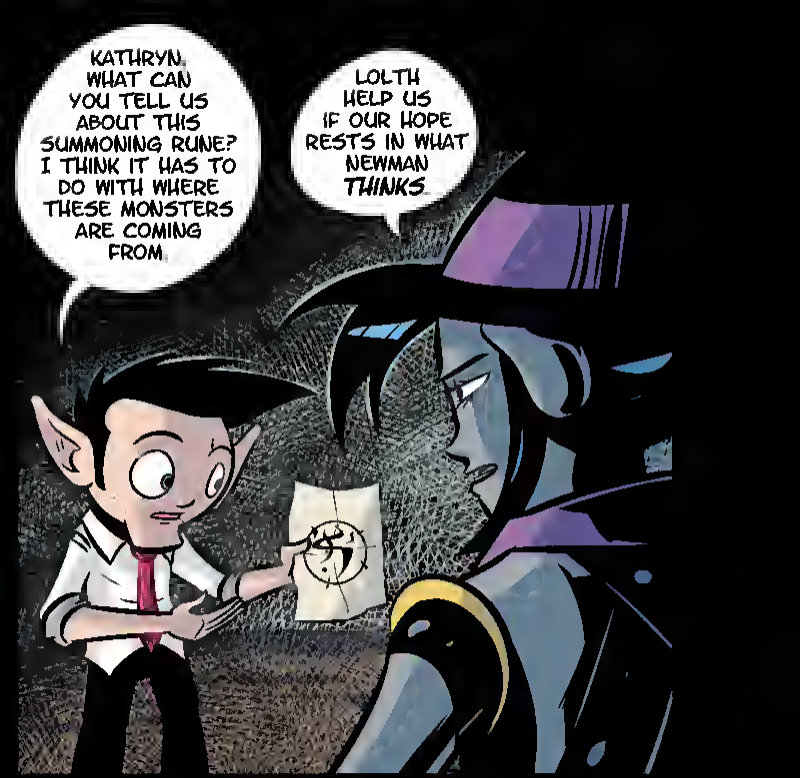
WHY DO YOU LET YOUR DOG SPEAK?
I HAVE PLENTY OF MUZZLES YOU KNOW.
YOU'RE WELCOME TO THEM.


IT'S A SUMMONING RUNE. I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH THIS PARTICULAR ONE. SPEAK WITH KATHRYN. SHE'S IN THE MARKET DISTRICT.
THIS IS MORE UP HER ALLEY.
UGH...

WELL, WELL
LOOK WHO IT IS, EVERYONE'S FAVORITE ROYAL COUPLE.
SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN IN ON THE ACTION NOW THAT IT'S OVER
EXOTIC WARES
SALE!

SHUT UP, KATHRYN.
WHY DO I GET THE FEELING THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT? SEEING AS HOW IT ALL HAPPENED RIGHT AFTER YOU DECIDED TO POP BY.
SALE!
DID YOU DRAG YOUR SURFACE DISEASES DOWN HERE WITH YOU?

GWEN, REMEMBER, WE NEED HER HELP. YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO KILL HER.
BUT LATER, RIGHT?
MAYBE... IF YOU EAT YOUR VEGETABLES


KATHRYN, WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THIS SUMMONING RUNE? I THINK IT HAS TO DO WITH WHERE THESE MONSTERS ARE COMING FROM.
LOLTH HELP US IF OUR HOPE RESTS IN WHAT NEWMAN *THINKS*.

THIS ISN'T JUST A SUMMONING RUNE. IT'S A DIMENSIONAL RUNE.
WHERE DID YOU GET THIS?
GLASSES!

CREEPY CULT HEADQUARTERS. SO WHAT DO YOU THINK? CAN WE USE IT AGAINST THEM?
NO, IDIOT, NOT UNLESS YOU PLAN ON SUMMONING MORE MONSTERS. HOWEVER, WITH THE COUNTER RUNE YOU COULD SEND THEM BACK TO WHERE THEY CAME FROM.
THAT'S GREAT! CAN YOU GET IT FOR US!?
MMM... PROBABLY...

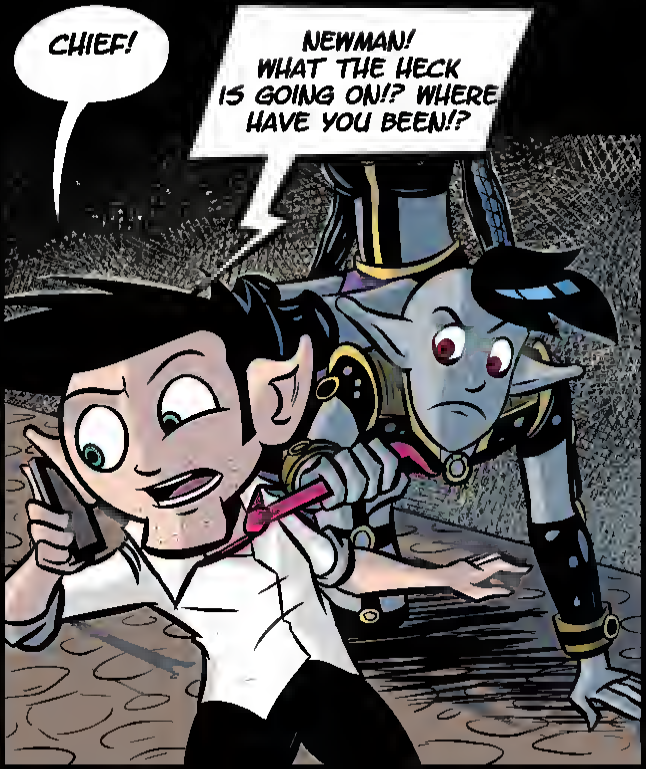
BUT I WANT GWEN TO ASK...
...NICELY.

ARE YOU KIDDING ME!? THE WORLD IS IN CRISIS AND YOU'RE PLAYING GAMES!?
IF THE WORLD IS IN CRISIS IT SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD TO SAY PLEASE.

PLEASE

IS THAT A CELL PHONE? I NEED TO USE IT!
THAT WASN'T VERY BELIEVABLE
WAIT! NO! I CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT!
MISTRESS WILL KILL ME!

CALM DOWN, DARIAN! LET GO!
GRRRR!!

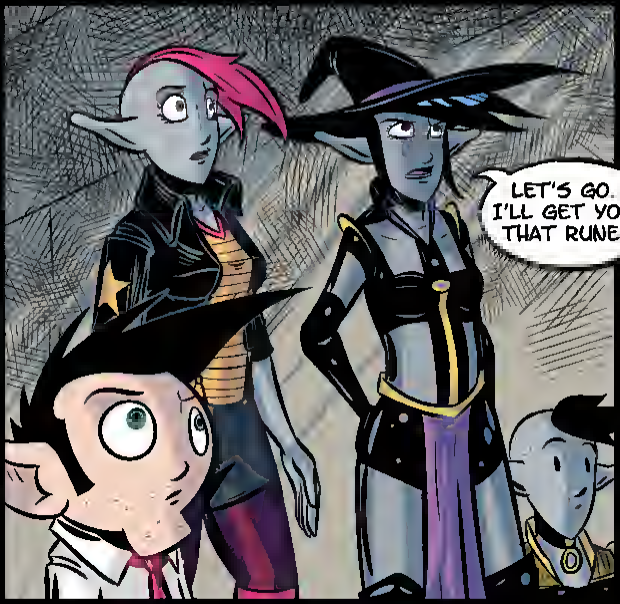

CHIEF!
NEWMAN! WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON!? WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN!?

THERE WERE SOME COMPLICATIONS. BUT THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT. WE FOUND THE CULT—
IS THAT MY PHONE!?

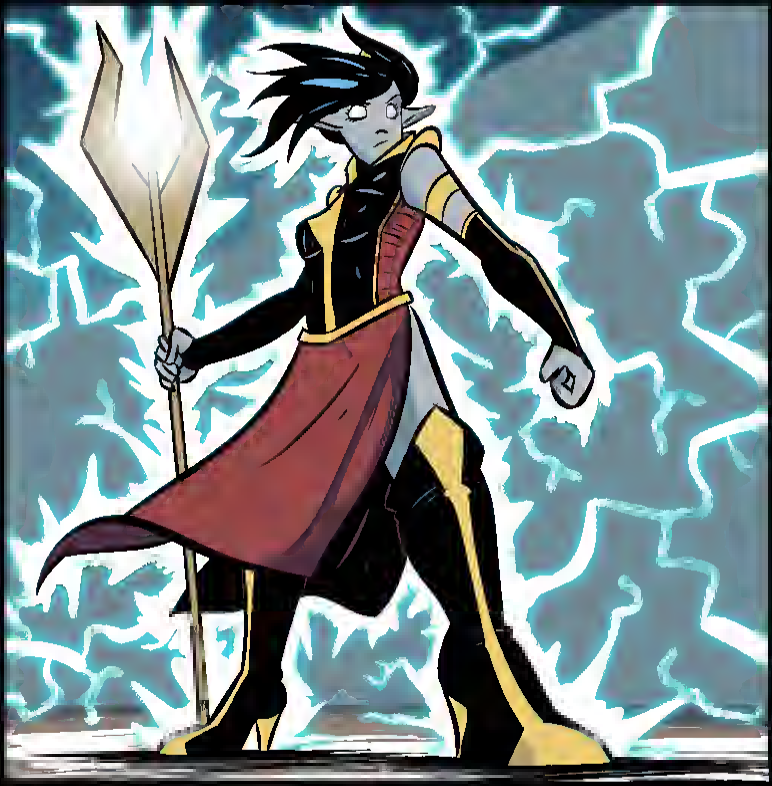
OWE!-- THEY'RE SPAWNING THE MONSTERS WITH A SUMMONING RUNE. BUT THERE IS SOMETHING EVEN MORE--OWE!-- IMPORTANT--
HOW DARE YOU LAY YOUR FILTHY MALE HANDS ON MY PHONE!

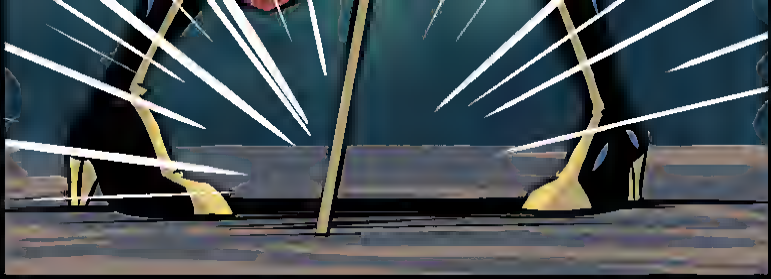
WHAT??

THERE'S A BIG ONE.


LET'S GO. I'LL GET YOU THAT RUNE.

SEND TWO PLATOONS TO START EVACUATING THE CITY. I WANT EVERY OTHER ABLE BODY READY TO FIGHT.
I'M GOING TO TRY AND HOLD IT BACK. IF IT BREAKS THROUGH, I WANT EVERY CIVILIAN CLEAR OF THE CITY. UNDERSTOOD?
YES, YOUR MAJESTY!





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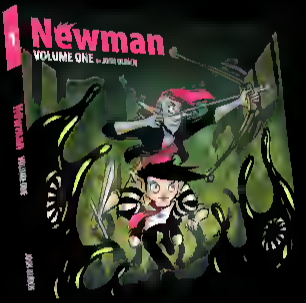

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